- The Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) having been notified on 14th November, 2005, separate budget provision for crediting the Cess amount collected to PSK was started from 2006-07 onwards.

Taxing the high income group

1168. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is paving the way for collection of higher taxes from high income people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government collects income tax from high income people at a tax rate which is higher than the tax rate on other people.

(b) and (c) For the financial year 2007-08 (relevant to the assessment year 2008-09) the income tax rates for an individual or Hindu undivided family (not being a women or senior citizen) are as under:-

(i) where the total income does not exceed Rs. 1,10,000	Nil;
(ii) where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,10,000 but does not exceed Rs. 1,50,000	10 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,10,000
(iii) where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,50,000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000	Rs. 4,000 plus 20 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,50,000;
(iv) where the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000	Rs. 24,000 plus 30 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000.

Where total income exceeds Rs. 10,00,000, the income tax, calculated as above, shall be further increased by a surcharge at the rate of 10 per cent of such income tax.

The amount of income tax and surcharge as above shall be further increased by

(i) an additional surcharge called 'Education Cess on income tax' at the rate of 2 per cent of such income tax and surcharge, and

(ii) an additional surcharge called 'Secondary and Higher Education Cess on income tax' at the rate of 1 per cent of such income tax and surcharge.

Twelfth Finance Commission

1169. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission has mandated that Rs. 20,000 crore of grant money for Panchayats from 2005—10 be disbursed by the State Governments within 15 days of receipt of money from the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether this policy is being strictly observed by the State Governments;

(c) if so, whether State Governments also have the responsibility to ensure proper end use and send back reports within 15 days;

(d) how many State Governments have sent back end-use reports on the Rs. 20,000 crore grants; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that the vast funds are properly used by Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some States have reported delay in transferring of grants to Panchayats beyond the stipulated period of 15 days.

(c) As per guidelines framed by the Ministry of Finance for release and utilisation of grants to local bodies recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC), States shall constitute High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the State Chief Secretary, to ensure proper utilization of grants and State Governments have to send utilization certificates.

(d) Utilisation reports have been received from 22 States in respect of grants released to them so far.

(e) As per the above guidelines, in addition to HLC constituted at State level, committees have also been constituted in the Government of India, headed by Secretary, Department of Expenditure; and another headed by Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to review the releases and utilisation of grants by States.

Abolition of income tax on Co-operative Banks

1170. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Co-operative Union has requested the abolition of income tax on Co-operative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government has received various representations from Members of Parliament, Union Ministers, State Ministers, various stake-holders and representative bodies against withdrawal of tax benefit available to co-operative banks under section 80P of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) In the representations, request has been made for restoration of the tax benefit under section 80P of the Income-tax Act to all the co-operative banks.

(c) On consideration of the representations, the Government has not found feasible to accept the request made therein.